

# NIMS Implementation

## *Tips of the Week*



### Unified Command

Unified Command is an important element in multi-jurisdictional or multi-agency incident management, as it provides guidelines to enable agencies with different legal, geographic, and functional responsibilities to coordinate, plan, and interact effectively.

Advantages of a **unified command** structure:

- A single set of objectives is developed for the entire incident.
- A collective approach is used to develop strategies to achieve incident objectives.
- Information flow and coordination is improved between all jurisdictions and agencies involved in the incident.
- All agencies with responsibility for the incident have an understanding of joint priorities and restrictions.
- No agency's legal authorities will be compromised or neglected.
- The combined efforts of all agencies are optimized as they perform their respective assignments under a single Incident Action Plan (IAP).



# National Credentialing

National NIMS-credentialing is the administrative process for validating the qualifications of personnel and assessing their background, for authorization and permitting/granting access to an incident, involving interstate mutual aid and assistance.

NIMS credentialing:

- Is ***voluntary***, reflecting only the participation of a/the first responder(s) who agree to be deployed under interstate mutual aid agreements or mutual aid assistance compacts
- Relates only to personnel and teams, either as a single resource or part of a response team, as defined in existing and deployable interstate response resources or first responder assets;
- Focuses on required minimum qualifications in order to define and ensure the competency of the stated resource capability being requested;
- Requires States to establish a program administered by the State Director (or other Official designated by the Governor) to grant authority to agencies, organizations or other entities to issue Qualification Cards for persons to be deployed for interstate mutual aid.
- Is based on verifiable accreditation and certification issued by the appropriate professional regulatory agencies, professional associations or licensing authorities;
- Must be sufficiently standardized and definable to promote the exchange and regulation through interstate mutual aid agreements or compacts;
- Facilitates inventory, tracking , and determination of resource and asset [availability] status for response operations;
- Relies on a process where issuance of any credentialing certifications remains with the jurisdiction having authority; and
- Must comply with evolving technological and information standards to permit:
  - Verification of identity;
  - Verification of qualifications; and
  - Verification of deployment authorization.



## Previous *Tips of the Week* include:

### May 30

- Certifying NIMS Compliant Training Courses
- Incident Action Planning

### May 23

- NIMSCAST Corrective Action Plan Reports
- NIMSCAST User and Account History Tracking and Reporting

### May 16

- ICS 400
- New NIMS e-mail

### May 9

- ICS 300
- NIMS Self-certification in FY2007?